

**AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend line 3, beginning on page 1 of the specification as follows:

This invention was made under a contract with an agency of the United States

Government, contract number: DE-FC05-00 OR 22806.

Please replace paragraph 20 beginning on page 5 of the specification with the following:

The internal combustion engine 10 includes a means for moving 34 the axis 24 of the crankshaft 22 from the first crankshaft position 26 to the second crankshaft position 30, shown schematically in Fig. 1. In the embodiment of Fig. 1, the means for moving 34 is a vcr mechanism 36 connected to the crankshaft 22. As used herein, the term "vcr mechanism" means any structure capable of moving the crankshaft 22 from the first crankshaft position 26 to the second crankshaft position 30. The vcr mechanism 36 is moveable between a first mechanism position 38, shown in Fig. 2, at which the crankshaft 22 is in the first crankshaft position 26, and a second mechanism position 40, shown in Fig. 3, at which the crankshaft 22 is at the second crankshaft position 30. The difference between the position of the vcr mechanism 36 in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 can be seen by the different position of reference point 42 in Figs. 2 and 3. In the embodiment of Figs. 2 and 3, the vcr mechanism 36 includes a crankshaft cradle [[44]] 88. In the embodiment of Figs. 2 and 3, the vcr mechanism 36 is moveable from the first mechanism position 38 to the second mechanism position 40 by rotation of the crankshaft cradle [[44]] 88. However, one of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that in other embodiments the vcr mechanism 36 may include other structures and that the vcr

mechanism 36 may move from the first mechanism position 38 to the second  
mechanism position 40 other than by rotation of the vcr mechanism 36.